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THE PRESENT EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND THE TRAINING OF ECONOMIC ENTOMOLOGISTS¹

At the beginning, I wish to call your attention to the fact that this paper deals with a system and its relation to the preparation of a class of men to meet certain insistent economic conditions brought about by a twentieth-century civilization. I do not wish to place the instructor in any other position than that of a more or less willing or unwilling agent of this system, or the university graduate in any other light than that of the inevitable result of the workings of that system.

The world of to-day demands the carrying out of certain undertakings, the doing of certain difficult things, which, in turn, demands certain qualifications in the men who are to do them, and demands them as never before in the world's history. These men must be taken as lads and so trained as to meet these imperative demands. Where can the American boy get this preparation that these existing conditions demand? Who has the ability, willingness and the freedom to train him therefor? If I were the only one asking these questions, or were the science of entomology alone involved, there would be grounds for suspecting that there was something wrong with the entomologists. But this is not the situation.

Several years ago Mr. F. W. Taylor, who is not only not a man with a grouch, but one of the foremost engineers in the country, stated that he had long ago made up

¹ Read before the Washington, D. C., meeting of the Entomological Society of America, December 27, 1911.